



Secretary of the Air Force
Office of Legislative Liaison

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING RESUME

107TH Congress

Date: 28 March 2001

SUBJECT: Report of the Commission to Assess United States National Security Space Management

COMMITTEE: Senate Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Strategic

CHAIRMAN: The Honorable Wayne Allard (R-CO)

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

REPUBLICANS

Bob Smith (NH)
James Inhofe (OK)
Jeff Sessions (AL)

DEMOCRATS

Jack Reed (RI) (Ranking)
Daniel Akaka (HI)
Bill Nelson (FL)

WITNESSES: Mr. Robert V. Davis, Commissioner
Gen Ronald R. Fogleman, USAF (Ret)
Hon William R. Graham, Commissioner
Gen Thomas S. Moorman, Jr., USAF (Ret)
Hon Malcolm Wallop, Commissioner

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Committee was called to order at 1430 and adjourned at 1610.

- **Gen Fogleman**, USAF (Ret), acted as spokesman for the commission members, and provided a review of the commission's scope, methodology, findings, and recommendations

Each Senator's theme from two rounds of questions is summarized below:

- **Sen Allard's** questions focussed on organization and management of National Security Space (the purpose of the commission). The Sen was interested in the most problematic organizational areas the commissioners encountered, and their thoughts on the Air Force's current role in space
- **Sen Reed** was concerned the commission report may be interpreted as a mandate to weaponize space, and was interested in proactive steps the USG could take to promote the peaceful uses of space
- **Sen Smith** assumed OSD would implement the organizational changes the commission recommended, and asked about legal impediments to weapons in space, and where resources should be focussed
- **Sen Akaka's** questions focussed on threats -- specifically which threat the USG should first focus limited resources on
- **Sen Nelson** was interested in specific programatics -- as Congress begins to debate the FY02 budget, which program(s) should they provide additional resources to

Two themes emerged from commission members when asked about focussing attention and resources:

- **Space Situational Awareness** was the area most in need of immediate attention -- "a capability that is eroding every day" as more objects are launched into space
- Establishing a strong **space cadre** must also be a priority

KEY COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, AND ANSWERS

- When asked by **Sen Allard** about the most problematic area the commission encountered, **Mr Graham**, while noting we are very fortunate to have such a competent air fighting force, stated this devotion to air warfare has necessarily led to an ambivalence by the AF towards space. **Sen Wallop** stated a lack of focus, even within the Congress. **Gen Moorman** stated the importance of space needed to be raised across the entire spectrum, and noted space was absolutely critical to the transformation of the Armed Forces. **Mr Davis** noted the USG was not paying enough attention to commercial space, and **Gen Fogleman** highlighted a lack of high level attention, and while "folks were trying very hard to integrate space and air operations," within the AF "I think there was a real lack of appreciation of the uniqueness of space"
- When asked by **Sen Reed** if the commission report was in affect a mandate for weapons in space, **Gen Moorman** stated no, but he believed it was irresponsible not to deter and defend our critical reliance on space. **Sen Wallop and Mr Graham** added the US has a right of self-defense, and if we believe we need weapons in space, we should not hesitate
- When **Sen Smith** asked about legal impediments to weapons in space, **Sen Wallop** replied most were in an arms control context (e.g., ABM Treaty). The Sen went on to state nothing, however, prohibits weapons, particularly defensive weapons. The Sen followed his question with a request for specific recommendations on where resources should be focussed, and was provided the following recommendations: the space component of BMD and continuous surveillance (**Graham**), space S/A (**Fogleman**), cheap access to space (**Moorman**), and more reliance on commercial products and services (**Davis**)
- Responding to a question from **Sen Akaka** re threats, **Gen Fogleman** stated there has not been enough threat analysis completed to prioritize at this point. **Gens Fogleman and Moorman** continued that given that reality, good intentioned treaties and international agreements could potentially severely limit our options in the future
- **Sen Allard** asked what the commission members felt about the current role of the AF in space. Speaking for the commission, **Gen Fogleman** stated that within DoD there was currently not a "center of mass" of space assets or an adequate space cadre to warrant the establishment of a space force or corps. The General continued the next best solution was the AF as they currently contribute the vast majority of space resources within DoD. **Gen Fogleman** noted that if the AF failed to step up to space responsibilities if the commission's recommendations are implemented, that should hasten the creation of a separate space force or corps